

Agency Overview

The Commission was founded in 1965 as the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women under executive order by Governor Robert E. Smylie, and was patterned after the federal Commission on the Status of Women. The Commission was created as a statutory commission under Idaho Code in 1970 and given the name Commission on Women's Programs. During the 1997 legislative session, the name of the Commission was changed to the Idaho Women's Commission. The agency is a part of the Office of the Governor.

Since 1965, the Commission has been an advocate for women in all walks of life. Its mission is to encourage and motivate women to increase their participation in their communities, the state and the nation. Through educational and informational efforts, the Commission works toward an environment in which all women within the state are ensured equal opportunities and protection in all aspects of their personal and professional lives.

Volunteer Commissioners, appointed by the Governor for three-year terms, work with other state agencies and women and children's organizations on specific projects or programs. These vary according to statewide and community needs.

For over 30 years, the Commission has researched and advocated for legislation and social change ranging from equal pay and employment opportunities to child custody and support. Currently, the Commission is comprised of 9 nonpartisan members from various regions of the State, and a director. Current members are:

Fran Dingel, Chair
Boise

Kitty Kunz
Boise

Linda Hurlbutt, Vice Chair
Boise

Amy Taylor
Idaho Falls

Shirley Kaiyou, Secretary
Fort Hall

Rayelle Anderson
Coeur d'Alene

Farhana Hibbert
Pocatello

Jeanne Wride
Aberdeen

Sarah Bedke
Oakley

Core Functions/Idaho Code

Idaho Code Title 67, Chapter 60

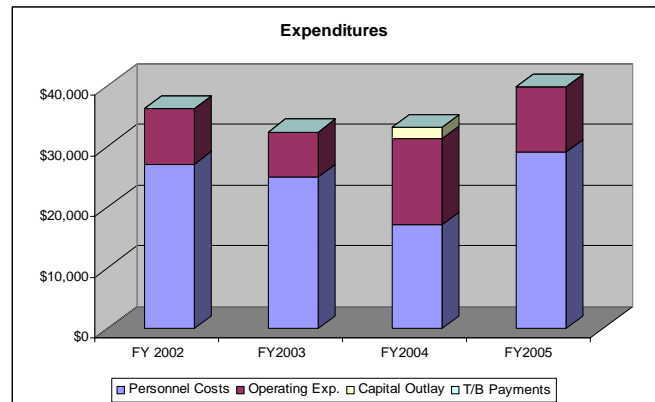
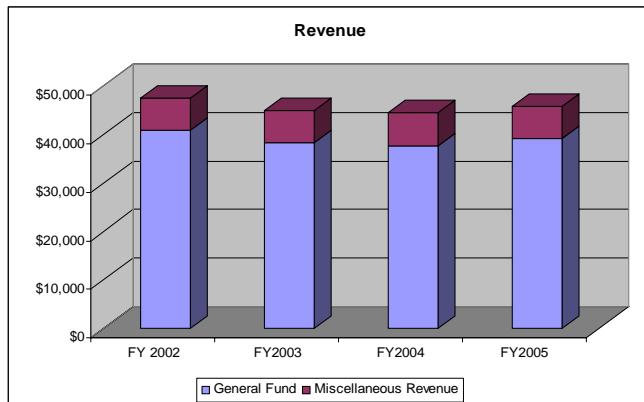
The purposes of the commission shall be: (1) to encourage and stimulate women to increase their participation in and contributions, whether paid or unpaid, to the social, political and economic progress of the local communities, the state and the nation, acting independently or in cooperation with similar commissions and committees established by the president of the United States and the governors of other states; and (2) to engage in activities that encourage and stimulate the development of strong families.

The Commission has researched and advocates for legislation and social change ranging from equal pay and employment opportunities to child custody and support. Some of its current projects include monitoring proposed legislation affecting women and families, providing information and referrals for women across the state on legal, political and economic issues, offering educational classes on how Idaho laws impact areas of interest to women, and offering regional conferences with topics of interest to women in different parts of Idaho. The Commission networks with other organizations and commissions to help develop strong families in Idaho. Women are the center of the home and striving to improve their opportunities and involvement in their communities will strengthen families and Idaho.

Because of the small budget allocated to the Women's Commission they are unable to maintain a permanent office location with regular hours. If this were possible it would improve the ability for the commission to meet the needs of women in Idaho.

Revenue and Expenditures:

Revenue	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
General Fund	\$40,800	\$38,200	\$37,700	\$39,100
Miscellaneous Revenue	\$6,700	\$6,700	\$6,700	\$6,700
Total	\$47,500	\$44,900	\$44,400	\$45,800
Expenditure	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Personnel Costs	\$27,100	\$24,900	\$17,100	\$29,100
Operating Expenditures	\$9,100	\$7,500	\$14,200	\$10,700
Capital Outlay	\$0	\$0	\$1,800	\$0
Trustee/Benefit Payments	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
Total	\$36,200	\$32,400	\$33,100	\$39,800



Profile of Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided

Cases Managed and/or Key Services Provided	FY 2002	FY 2003	FY 2004	FY 2005
Distribution of "Idaho laws, A Guide for Women and Families"	The book was not printed.	11,000 books were printed and distributed	6,000 books were printed and distributed	12,000 books were printed and distributed
Telephone, email, and website contact	7,349	7,250	8,464	14,000 to website/ contacts 8,265
Volunteer hours by commissioners (includes literacy projects, book donations to prisons, Red Cross hours, community involvement, etc.)	1,470	1,560	1,624	1,898
Private donations received	0	0	\$1,800	\$1,300
Regional Seminars sponsored	0	0	1	2
Networking with other organizations	0	0	6	13

Performance Highlights:

Commission members and the Director meet with individuals and community-based groups around the State (and country) that provide services and advocacy efforts for women and their families. The Commission shares information and plans collaborative programs, such as educational workshops on finances, small business, personal development and legal issues. The Director takes statewide information and referral calls on the Commission's toll-free telephone line on issues ranging from starting a new business to divorce and domestic violence. The toll-free number is listed in various telephone directories in Idaho and is listed on a web site home page for the Commission. The booklet produced by the IWC, "Idaho Laws, a Guide for Women and Families" provides invaluable information to all Idahoans on a large range of legal issues that impact women and their families. This booklet is published about every 2 years with the help of grants secured by the IWC. Their goal with the next edition will be to print the book in Spanish to help the rising Hispanic women population.

Commission members track legislation and state agency activities that impact women and families, and provide legislative information to women and family organizations. The overall effect of this program is to improve the lives of women and children in Idaho. Education is the key component in assisting women to better provide for themselves and their families. The IWC continues to network with agencies that assist women and families transition from welfare to self-sufficiency. The Commission seeks to provide any needed information to the Legislature on issues that would impact women and families.

The Commission meets semi annually at this time. Our budget is small and does not allow for more than the two meetings a year. In the future if our budget were to increase we could meet more often, which would allow us to coordinate our regional activities and help each other to reach more women in our regions of Idaho.

With the increase use of our website we will continue to provide updated and useful information to women and families in Idaho. Our future goals include increasing our donations and grant money to help in disseminating information to women and families, holding regional conferences by partnering with local women's groups, and partnering with other organizations to further the advancement of women and families. We will be updating our book, "Idaho Laws, a Guide for Women and Families" and making it more user friendly and helpful to women in Idaho.

For More Information Contact

Kitty Kunz
Women's Commission
6833 W. Amity Road
Boise, ID 83709
Phone: (208) 362-0305
E-mail: kentkittykunz@msn.com